

Simon McGillivray, Provincial Grand Master of Upper Canada for 1822-41, in his report to the Duke of Sussex, Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England. He says :

“ At York I had the advantage of being personally acquainted with the most respectable individuals in the society of the place, and the subject of my Masonic mission being occasionally alluded to in my conversation, I soon found that several of my friends were Freemasons, although they had never joined or visited any of the lodges in the Province, nor taken any notice whatever of the proceedings or progress of the Craft, and on my expressing regret at this indifference on their part, the answer was that Masonry had not been in such hands, nor conducted in such a manner as to offer any inducement to respectable men to associate with some of those whom they might be liable to meet in the lodges. I replied that if even the case were so, it was partly caused by the absence of the influence and example of individuals like themselves, who, instead of leaving Masonry in the hands of persons, with whom they could not associate, ought themselves to be the leaders of the Craft. I explained, however, the measures which had already been adopted for the exclusion of improper persons, and those which would be enforced under the authority and Constitution of the Grand Lodge of England, and finally a sufficient number of these gentlemen having agreed to form a lodge and petitioned accordingly for a dispensation, I had great satisfaction in giving it to them, and I anticipate great benefit to the Craft from their countenance and support. Amongst the members of this Lodge (St. Andrew's, No. 1), are one of the Judges of the Court of King's Bench, the Surveyor-General of the Province, the Receiver-General (who is also a Legislative Counsellor), the Governor's Secretary, the Principal Aide-de-Camp, the Adjutant-General of the Militia, etc., etc., etc. Although these local distinctions may not be very highly appreciated in England, yet in Canada these gentlemen are a great acquisition to the general respectability of Masonry, and their personal and official influence will in many cases have a very beneficial effect.”